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Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East
Fifty-third session
Baku, 19–23 November 2018

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-first session.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
   (a) Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade;
   (b) Countering trafficking in precursors, including non-scheduled chemicals, and the threat posed by synthetic drug trends, including new psychoactive substances, and responses;
   (c) Connecting regional cooperation centres for the exchange of information;
   (d) Developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes.
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, also taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
8. Organization of the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission.
9. Other business.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 17 October 2018.
** Available only in Arabic, English and Russian, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

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10. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its fifty-third session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. Past practice has been for the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East to elect a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-third session was approved by the Subcommission at its fifty-second session, held in Beirut from 13 to 17 November 2017.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that general statements concerning national trends in drug trafficking and statistics not be read out but rather be circulated in written form. Participants were therefore invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), by 17 August 2018, a three-page country report on trends in drug trafficking during the past year. Only reports received by that date will be translated into the other working languages of the Subcommission.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Subcommission may wish to establish a programme of work. A proposed programme of work is contained in the annex to the present document for the consideration of the Subcommission.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (UNODC/SUBCOM/53/1)

3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

Participants are invited to inform the Subcommission about the efforts of their Governments to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training and the sharing of information and experiences relating to measures taken to counter drug trafficking.

Participants are also invited to inform the Subcommission of any practical challenges impeding subregional cooperation and about measures taken to overcome them.

The item on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking will provide an opportunity to examine current trends and the modi operandi used in drug trafficking, operational successes in efforts to counter trafficking in cannabis, cocaine and heroin, and other issues of relevance.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (UNODC/SUBCOM/53/2)

Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/53/3)

4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-first session

Participants are invited to inform the Subcommission of action taken by their Governments to implement the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-first session, held in Riyadh from 20 to 24 November 2016. The Subcommission will have before it a note by the Secretariat based on replies received to a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments to implement those recommendations.

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To enable the Secretariat to prepare its note on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Subcommission at its fifty-first session, a note verbale was transmitted to the Governments of States members of the Subcommission on 21 June 2018, urging them to return the completed questionnaire by 17 August 2018.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-first session (UNODC/SUBCOM/53/4)

5. Consideration of topics by working groups

Ad hoc working groups will be established to review issues of regional importance and to facilitate informal discussions and frank exchanges of views on such matters. The working groups will be invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Subcommission for endorsement and inclusion in the report on its fifty-third session.

(a) Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade

The working group established under sub-item (a) will discuss the challenges arising from the issue of drug-related money-laundering, including the laundering of proceeds using cryptocurrencies and the growing problem of the trade in drugs on black markets hosted on the darknet. Because the darknet offers criminals relative anonymity, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units need to develop their capacity to trace cryptocurrency transactions to the owner and to conduct undercover operations on the darknet. The capacities of law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units to trace illicit financial flows and transactions will be addressed. Participants will be invited to share information on the latest trends observed by their agencies in the extent and nature of money-laundering related to drug trafficking, as well as best investigative practices in that regard. Participants will also be invited to discuss issues related to effective international cooperation in those matters, as well as to address challenges arising from the seizure of proceeds in the form of cryptocurrencies and ways to ensure efficient international cooperation in drug trafficking cases involving the darknet. The working group will conclude by proposing recommendations.

(b) Countering trafficking in precursors, including non-scheduled chemicals, and the threat posed by synthetic drug trends, including new psychoactive substances, and responses

The working group established under sub-item (b) will examine trends in the diversion of and trafficking in precursors, including non-scheduled chemicals, and discuss the challenges with which drug law enforcement agencies and regulatory authorities are confronted when identifying and investigating precursor seizures, diversions and diversion attempts. The working group will also consider the current trends in the manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances and their precursors, and the countermeasures put in place to address those issues. Participants will be encouraged to report on the appearance of new drugs in the domestic drug markets. They will also be invited to share information on current trends and modi operandi, as well as experiences with investigations, including the sharing of actionable intelligence across borders and between agencies at the national, regional and international levels. Participants may also consider discussing the effectiveness of the existing regulatory frameworks and law enforcement responses. The working group will conclude by proposing recommendations to support the implementation of a common approach.

(c) Connecting regional cooperation centres for the exchange of information

The working group established under sub-item (c) will focus on examining the roles and functions of existing regional law enforcement and related cooperation centres, mechanisms, structures and initiatives such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Joint Planning Cell, the Gulf Cooperation Council Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs, the Gulf Cooperation Council police force and others. Participants will consider the possibility of making more effective use of the capacities of those centres and will identify gaps in that regard. Specific attention will be paid to the initiatives of various partners and programmes aimed at building connections and operational cooperation links between various regional cooperation centres to ensure the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting regional and interregional criminal activities. The working group will propose recommendations for strengthening connections and cooperation between regional cooperation centres.

(d) Developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes

In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex), Member States devoted a section to recommendations on alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; and addressing socioeconomic issues, in which they reiterated their commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes. One aim of the working group established under sub-item (d) will be to highlight the importance of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes that support sustainable crop control strategies, as recommended in the outcome document. Participants will be encouraged to share national experiences in the promotion of alternative development and in addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs. A further aim of the working group will be to serve as a platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013 and reaffirmed in resolutions 71/210 of 2016 and 72/197 of 2017.

6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, also taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

In its resolution 56/10, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard under the agenda item on the follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

In the same resolution, the Commission encouraged Member States to consider the expertise and composition of their delegations to the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, with a view to covering the various aspects of the world drug problem (demand, supply and international cooperation) in order to hold substantive discussions on the issue and to actively participate in the above-mentioned agenda item. The Commission also requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, on the basis of their

deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

The outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly contains a set of operational recommendations, which were formulated on the basis of a review of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements as well as of ways to address long-standing and emerging challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

The operational recommendations contained in the outcome document cover the following seven thematic areas: (a) demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues; (b) ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion; (c) supply reduction and related measures, effective law enforcement, responses to drug-related crime, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation; (d) cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities; (e) cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments; (f) strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility; and (g) alternative development, regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy and addressing socioeconomic issues.

Member States resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in implementing them.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is conducting the follow-up process to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly with a focus on implementing the recommendations. To that end, discussions were held on all seven thematic areas in 2016 and 2017.

During the intersessional period in 2018, the Commission will continue discussions on the implementation of the recommendations of the special session, as well as the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. More information on those topics can be found on the Commission's web pages on the UNODC website (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/CND_Meetings-Current-Year.html).

At its sixtieth session, in 2017, the Commission decided to convene a ministerial segment during its sixty-second session, to be held in Vienna in 2019, aimed at taking stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

At its sixty-first session, in March 2018, the Commission adopted resolution 61/10, entitled "Preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2019", in which it took decisions on a number of organizational arrangements for the ministerial segment. The Commission decided that the ministerial segment should include a general debate and set out details regarding the format of the debate. The Commission furthermore decided that the ministerial segment should include two interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables, to be conducted in parallel with the general debate in plenary, and set out details on the format of the round tables. Additional details on the ministerial

segment and the way forward beyond 2019 will be discussed by the Commission at the intersessional meetings in September, October and November 2018.

Under the agenda item 6, participants will be invited to consider the challenges faced by the States of the region with regard to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. They will also be invited to discuss how they could best contribute to the Commission's follow-up to the 2016 special session and the implementation of the outcome document, drawing on their technical expertise and their regional experiences.

Documentation

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/2009/28, chap. I, sect. C)

General Assembly resolution S-30/1, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem"

7. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1 read as follows:

In response to the invitation contained in paragraph 97 of General Assembly resolution 71/211 of 19 December 2016, and mindful of the requests contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10 of 15 March 2013 and the operational recommendation contained in paragraph 6 (c) of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", the Commission, at its 9th meeting, on 17 March 2017, decided:

(a) To examine how its subsidiary bodies can better contribute to the implementation of the outcome document;

(b) To inform its subsidiary bodies of the invitation contained in General Assembly resolution 71/211;

(c) To invite the subsidiary bodies to consider that invitation at their upcoming meetings and report back to the Commission in due course.

At its fifty-second session, the Subcommission considered the implementation of Commission decision 60/1. Information on the deliberations during the fifty-second session is contained in the report of the Subcommission on that session (UNODC/SUBCOM/52/6), as well as in the report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission (E/CN.7/2018/9).

8. Organization of the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission

The Subcommission will be invited to review a draft provisional agenda for its fifty-fourth session, including the topics for discussion in working groups and possible venues for future sessions. A decision taken by the Subcommission at its fifty-third session on the venue for its fifty-fourth session and the topics for the working groups would greatly facilitate the preparation and organization of the fifty-fourth session. Participants are requested to be prepared to propose and discuss topics for the working groups of the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission. The Secretariat will provide, upon request, a copy of the standard letter of agreement setting out the contributions of the United Nations and the host Government.

Participants will also be invited to discuss any other matters related to the organization of the deliberations, with a view to improving their substantive content and follow-up.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (UNODC/SUBCOM/53/5)

9. Other business

Under the item entitled "Other business", the Subcommission may wish to address any other important issues, such as urgent matters arising from the country reports.

10. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its fifty-third session

The Subcommission will adopt the report on its fifty-third session, including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the working groups, on the last day of the session.

Annex

Proposed programme of work

Date	*Time*	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
Monday, 19 November 2018	8.30 a.m.		Registration
	10 a.m.		Opening of the fifty-third session
		1	Election of officers
		2	Adoption of the agenda
		3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
	2.30 p.m.	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted at the fifty-first session
Tuesday, 20 November 2018	10 a.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups
	2.30 p.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups (*continued*)
Wednesday, 21 November 2018	10 a.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups (*continued*)
	2.30 p.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups (*continued*)
Thursday, 22 November 2018	10 a.m.	6	Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, also taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
	2.30 p.m.	7	Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
		8	Organization of the fifty-fourth session
Friday, 23 November 2018	10 a.m.	9	Other business
	2.30 p.m.	10	Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its fifty-third session

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